Second
WORLD CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER
Edinburgh, 1937.

A D D R E S S

by

The Rev. A. E. Garvie, D.D.
(Deputy Chairman of the Lausanne World Conference in 1927)
at the Opening of Business
on Tuesday August 3rd.

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Gathered together from the ends of the earth in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and as members of His body, in this beautiful and ancient City of Edinburgh, for the Second Conference of Faith and Order, we cannot but go back in grateful memory to the First Conference in Lausanne ten years ago; and before we address ourselves to the tasks of the present and the aims for the future, it is fitting that we should pay our debt to the past, that we should remember with praise to God those who then were the leaders in this movement, and who are not with us to-day, for God has taken them unto Himself in the eternal mansions. We recall that it was the Edinburgh Missionary Conference of 1910 that gave the impulse to the purpose of the World Conference of Faith and Order; and that the first steps towards the goal were taken by the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, three members of which took the lead. Robert Hallowell Gardiner saw the promised land from afar, but was not suffered to enter, as he passed within the veil on June 15th, 1924.

Yet he must be mentioned, for it was he who by his abundant and strenuous labours as Secretary, laid the sound foundations on which the organisation could be built; it was, as inspired and instructed by him that his assistant, Mr Ralph Brown, was able to carry out his plans at Lausanne. George Zabriskie, as Treasurer, ably administered the finances of our movement, was present and active at the Conference, but four years later in October 1931 he too entered into rest. With Lausanne Bishop Charles Brent will always be associated in a sacred bond which the lapse of time can never sever. Interested, active, devoted from the very beginning, despite his precarious health, he discharged the duties of Chairman of the Conference in 1927 with a gracious mastery, because all present felt that through his consecrated personality the Spirit of God was verily guiding. Such furtherance as the movement towards the reunion of the churches gained from Lausanne was largely due to his sincere conviction, his persuasive influence, his transparent devotion. Even though he had been warned that his frail frame might break under the strain, he did not spare himself. As his deputy I presided at the afternoon sessions in the expectation that he would use these hours for rest; but he was always at my side, and by his presence alone made easier my task. Without any exaggeration it can be said that his was sacrificial service. He was laying down his life for the cause to which he was sanctifying himself in the spirit of his Master. His health had so failed, that he was not able to preside at the Continuation Committee meetings in Prague in September 6th to 8th. Restored in some measure he came to England in the autumn. Just before Christmas I had the privilege of a four hours conversation with him in my own house. Christian unity and Anglo-American friendship were his dominant interests in our conversation; and for both objects he was labouring beyond his strength. He was looking forward hopefully to preside at the Continuation Committee in the autumn, and to the Lambeth Conference of 1930 for a greater contribution to Christian reunion than 1920 had secured. After taking part in the dedication of the Tablet in the Cathedral in Lausanne to commemorate the Conference, surely the greatest triumph of his great life, he was gently called home on March 27th, 1929; and what was mortal of him was

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laid in the God's acre there. On August 28th a Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving was held in the English Church, Maloja in connection with the meetings of the Continuation Committee, when a representative of each section of the Conference bore witness to his worth and work. It would be impossible to mention all who since the Conference in Lausanne have passed from our midst, but there are three men, conspicuous in character and service whose names must be recalled, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Gore, his Grace the Archbishop of Upsala (Dr. Nathan Söderblum) and the Rev. Dr. Adolf Deissmann. We are encompassed by a great cloud of witnesses, as we run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

(Please stand for a few moments in silence and while we witness our hope in Christ)

" Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; even so, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours, and their works do follow them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun lighten them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."
" Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to His great mercy begat us again unto a living hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away."

(Please sit down)

It is now, as the Deputy Chairman of the Lausanne Conference, my privilege to bring forward for your acceptance the name of the President of this Conference. On the death of Bishop Brent, the responsibility fell on me as Vice-Chairman of the Continuation Committee to secure his successor. After due consultation with representatives of all sections of the Conference, one name was unamimously and cordially accepted, and it was with great joy that at the meeting of the Continuation Committee at Maloja I brought forward the name of his Grace, the Lord Archbishop of York (Dr. William Temple) having obtained his permission to do so. With the same unanimity and cordiality he was elected - and graciously accepted. As Chairman of the Continuation Committee since 1929, he has abundantly proved a fit and worthy successor to Bishop Brent. On behalf of, and with the authority of the Continuation Committee I now gladly propose him as President of the Conference. It would be impertinent for me to try and commend him. In ability, character, influence, reputation, and ecclesiastical status, he is verily a Saul among the people. His devotion to the cause of reunion has been fully proved. He is a master of assemblies, and I am confident that with skill and tact he will pilot our ship amid any shoals or rocks, billows or blasts, which it may encounter, and will bring it

to the desired haven. (Please signify your acceptance of my proposal by standing, and while standing let us all invoke the divine benediction upon him with one heart.

"The Lord bless and keep thee,
The Lord make His face to shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee:
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee:
and give thee peace."